



Intestate Inheritance Rights for Adopted Children: Summary of State Laws

Leaving a will is the best way to ensure heirs or descendants may inherit from your estate. Issues of property distribution may arise when a birth parent or adoptive parent dies without making a valid will or without naming an heir to particular property (referred to as "intestacy"). In these cases, State law determines who may inherit from whom. Laws in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands specify an adopted child's rights of inheritance from and through the adoptive and birth parents.

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Birth Parents and Adopted Children

Generally, the court decree that finalizes the adoption ends the legal relationship between the birth parent (also referred to as the “biological” or “natural” parent) and the adopted child. There are, however, exceptions to this policy in some States. For example:

- Alaska, Idaho, Illinois, and Maine provide for a continuation of inheritance rights if stated in the adoption decree.
- In Kansas, Louisiana, Rhode Island, Texas, and Wyoming, an adoption decree terminates the right of the birth parent to inherit from the adopted person, but the adopted person may still inherit from the birth parent.
- In Colorado, if there are no other heirs, the adopted child may file a claim against the estate of the birth parent within 90 days of the parent’s death.
- Illinois allows the birth parents to acquire from the adopted child’s estate any property gained from them through gift, will, or under intestate laws.
- In Pennsylvania, an adopted person may inherit from the estate of a birth relative, other than a birth parent, who has maintained a family relationship with the adopted person.

Adoption by the spouse of a birth parent generally has no effect on the right of a child to inherit from or through either birth parent.

Adoptive Parents and Adopted Children

The adopted child is treated by law as the natural child of the adopting parents, upon the entry of the final adoption decree. The adopted child, therefore, gains the right to inherit from the adoptive parents and adoptive parents’ relatives. Adoptive parents and other adoptive relatives also gain the right to inherit from the adopted child.

This publication is a product of the State Statutes Series prepared by Child Welfare Information Gateway. While every attempt has been made to be complete, additional information on these topics may be in other sections of a State's code as well as in agency regulations, case law, and informal practices and procedures.

Alabama**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ala. Code § 43-8-48**

For purposes of intestate succession, an adopted person is the child of an adopting parent and not of the birth parents, except that adoption of a child by the spouse of a natural parent has no effect on the right of the child to inherit from or through either birth parent.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ala. Code §§ 43-8-48; 26-10A-29**

For purposes of intestate succession, an adopted person is the child of an adopting parent and not of the birth parents, except that adoption of a child by the spouse of a natural parent has no effect on the right of the child to inherit from or through either birth parent.

After adoption, the adopted person shall be treated as the natural child of the adopting parents and shall have all rights and be subject to all of the duties arising from that relation, including the right of inheritance.

Alaska**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Alaska Stat. §§ 25.23.130; 13.12.114**

A final decree of adoption relieves the birth parents of the adopted person of all parental rights and responsibilities, and, except as provided below, terminates all legal relationships between the adopted person and the birth parents and other relatives of the adopted person, so that the adopted person thereafter is a stranger to the former relatives for all purposes including inheritance, unless the decree of adoption specifically provides for continuation of inheritance rights.

A decree terminating parental rights on the grounds set out in § 25.23.180(c)(3) [that the parent committed sexual assault or sexual abuse of a minor that resulted in the conception of a child] voids all legal relationships between the child and the birth parent for all purposes, except that inheritance rights between a child and a birth parent are not voided by the decree terminating parental rights unless the decree specifically provides for the termination of inheritance rights.

If a parent of a child dies without the relationship of parent and child having been previously terminated and a spouse of the living parent thereafter adopts the child, the child's right of inheritance from or through the deceased parent is unaffected by the adoption.

An adopted individual is the child of the individual's adopting parent or parents and not of the individual's natural parents, but adoption of a child by the spouse of either natural parent does not affect:

- The relationship between the child and that natural parent
- The right of the child or a descendant of the child to inherit from or through the other natural parent

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Alaska Stat. § 25.23.130**

A final decree of adoption creates the relationship of parent and child between petitioner and the adopted person, as if the adopted person were a legitimate blood descendant of the petitioner, for all purposes including inheritance.

American Samoa**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Code § 45.0423**

The birth parents are divested of all legal rights and obligations with respect to the child, and vice versa.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code § 45.0423**

After the entry of a final decree of adoption, the petitioner and the adopted person sustain toward each other the legal relation of parent and child, including the rights of inheritance from each other.

Arizona**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Rev. Stat. §§ 8-117; 14-2114**

The relationship of birth parent and adopted person is completely severed upon entry of the adoption decree, and all legal consequences of the relationship cease to exist, including the right of inheritance.

Adoption of a child by the spouse of either birth parent has no effect on the relationship between the child and that birth parent or on the right of the child or a descendant of the child to inherit from or through the other birth parent.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 8-117**

The adopted person is entitled to inherit from and through the adoptive parent and the adoptive parent is entitled to the same from the adopted person, as though the child were born to the adoptive parents.

Arkansas**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Code § 9-9-215**

The adoption decree relieves the birth parents of the adopted individual of all parental rights and responsibilities, and terminates all legal relationships between the adopted individual and his or her birth relatives, including his or her birth parents, so that the adopted individual thereafter is a stranger to his or her former relatives for all purposes including inheritance.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code § 9-9-215**

The adoption decree creates the relationship of parent and child between the adoptive parent and the adopted individual, as if the adopted individual were a legitimate blood descendant of the petitioner, for all purposes including inheritance.

California**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Prob. Code § 6451**

A natural parent may not inherit from or through a child on the basis of the parent-child relationship if someone, other than the spouse or surviving spouse of the natural parent, has adopted the child.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Prob. Code § 6450**

An adoption severs the relationship of parent and child between an adopted person and a birth parent of the adopted person unless both of the following requirements are satisfied:

- The birth parent and the adopted person lived together at any time as parent and child, or the birth parent was married to or cohabiting with the other birth parent at the time the person was conceived and died before the person's birth.
- The adoption was by the spouse of either of the birth parents or after the death of either of the birth parents.

Neither a birth parent nor a relative of a birth parent, except for a wholeblood brother or sister of the adopted person or the issue of that brother or sister, inherits from or through the adopted person on the basis of a parent and child relationship between the adopted person and the birth parent that satisfies the requirements listed above, unless the adoption is by the spouse or surviving spouse of that parent.

For the purpose of this section, a prior adoptive parent and child relationship is treated as a birth parent and child relationship.

Colorado**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Rev. Stat. § 15-11-103(6)-(7)**

A birth child may inherit from a natural parent if there is no surviving heir under § 15-11-103(1)-(5), and if the birth child files a claim for inheritance with the court having jurisdiction within 90 days of the parent's death. For purposes of this subsection, the term "birth child" means a child who was born to, but adopted away from, his or her natural parent.

If the birth child dies without a surviving heir, the birth parents have 90 days to file a claim for inheritance.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 15-11-114**

For purposes of intestate succession by, through, or from a person, an adopted individual is the child of his or her adopting parent or parents and not of his or her birth parents, except for inheritance rights as specified in § 15-11-103(6) and (7).

Connecticut**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Gen. Stat. § 45a-731(6), (8)**

The birth parent or parents and their relatives shall have no rights of inheritance from or through the adopted person, nor shall the adopted person have any rights of inheritance from or through the birth parent.

When one of the birth parents of a minor child has died and the surviving parent has remarried subsequent to such parent's death, adoption of the child by the surviving parent's spouse shall not affect the rights of the child to inherit from or through the deceased parent and the deceased parent's relatives.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Gen. Stat. § 45a-731(1)-(3)**

The adopting parent and the adopted person shall have rights of inheritance from and through each other. Such rights extend to adopted relatives and the heirs of the adopted person.

Delaware**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann Code Tit. 13, § 920**

Upon the issuance of an adoption decree, the adopted child shall lose all rights of inheritance from his or her natural parents and their relatives. The rights of the natural parent or relatives to inherit from the child shall also cease.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code Tit. 13 § 920**

Upon the issuance of the adoption decree, the adopted child shall acquire the right to inherit from his or her adoptive parent or parents and from the collateral or lineal relatives of such adoptive parent or parents, and the adoptive parents and the relatives of the adoptive parents shall at the same time acquire the right to inherit from the adopted child.

District of Columbia**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Code § 16-312**

All rights and duties, including those of inheritance between the adopted person and his or her natural parents, cease upon the final adoption decree.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code § 16-312**

A final decree of adoption establishes the relationship of parent and child between adopter and adopted person for all purposes, including mutual rights of inheritance.

Florida**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 63.172**

The adoption decree terminates all legal relationships between the adopted person and the adopted person's relatives, except that rights of inheritance shall be as provided in the Florida Probate Code.

If one or both parents of a child die without the relationship of parent and child having been previously terminated and a spouse of the living parent or a close relative of the child adopts the child, the child's right of inheritance from or through the deceased parent is unaffected by the adoption. For purposes of this subsection, a close relative of a child is the child's brother, sister, grandparent, aunt, or uncle.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 732.108**

For the purpose of intestate succession by or from an adopted person, the adopted person is a lineal descendant of the adopting parent and is one of the natural kindred of all members of the adopting parent's family, and is not a lineal descendant of his or her natural parents, nor is he or she one of the kindred of any member of the natural parent's family or any prior adoptive parent's family, except that:

- Adoption of a child by the spouse of a natural parent has no effect on the relationship between the child and the natural parent or the natural parent's family.
- Adoption of a child by a natural parent's spouse who married the natural parent after the death of the other natural parent has no effect on the relationship between the child and the family of the deceased natural parent.
- Adoption of a child by a close relative has no effect on the relationship between the child and the families of the deceased natural parents.

Georgia**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Code § 19-8-19**

An adoption decree terminates all legal relationships between the adopted person and his or her birth relatives, including rights of inheritance.

If a parent of a child dies without the relationship of parent and child having been previously terminated by court order or unrevoked surrender of parental rights to the child, the child's right of inheritance from or through the deceased parent shall not be affected by the adoption.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code § 19-8-19**

A decree of adoption creates the relationship of parent and child between the adoptive parent(s) and the adopted person. The adopted person shall enjoy every right and privilege of a birth child of the adoptive parent, including the right to inherit under the laws of descent and distribution in the absence of a will, and to inherit under the provisions of any instrument of testamentary gift, bequest, devise, or legacy, whether executed before or after the adoption is decreed, unless expressly excluded. The adopted person shall take by inheritance from relatives of the adoptive parent, and shall also inherit as a "child" of the adoptive parent under a class gift made by the will of a third person.

Guam**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Code Tit. 19, § 4214**

All the legal rights and privileges between a birth parent and an adopted person cease to exist upon entry of the adoption decree, including the right of inheritance.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code Tit. 19, § 4214**

The adopted person shall be entitled to inherit real and personal property from and through the adoptive parents, and the adoptive parents shall be entitled to the same from the adopted person.

Hawaii**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Rev. Stat. § 578-16**

The former legal parent or parents of an adopted individual and any other former legal kindred shall not be considered to be related to the individual as provided in the Uniform Probate Code except as provided in this section.

All legal duties and rights between the adopted person and his or her former legal parent or parents shall cease from the time of the adoption unless the adopted person is adopted by the spouse of a legal parent. In such case, the rights of inheritance between the adopted person and the legal parent and the legal relatives of the parent shall continue.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Rev. Stat. §§ 578-16; 560:2-114**

An adopted person and his or her adopting parent shall sustain towards each other the legal relationship of parent and child, including the rights of inheritance from and through each other.

Idaho**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Idaho Code § 16-1509**

Unless the decree of adoption otherwise provides, the natural parents of an adopted person are relieved of all parental duties toward the adopted person, including the right of inheritance unless specifically provided by will.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Idaho Code § 16-1508**

An adopted person and adopting parent shall sustain toward each other the legal relation of parent and child, and shall have all the rights and duties of that relation, including the right to inherit.

Illinois**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Cons. Stat. Tit. 755, § 5/2-4(b), (d)**

The natural parent and relatives shall take from the adopted person and the adopted person's kindred the property that the adopted person has taken from or through the natural parent or relatives by gift, will, or under intestate laws.

For purposes of inheritance from or through a natural parent, an adopted child is not a child of a natural parent, nor is the child a descendant of a natural parent or of any lineal or collateral kindred of a natural parent, unless one or more of the following conditions apply:

- The child is adopted by a descendant or a spouse of a descendant of a great-grandparent of the child, in which case the adopted child is a child of both natural parents.
- A natural parent of the adopted child died before the child was adopted, in which case the adopted child is a child of that deceased parent and an heir of the lineal and collateral kindred of that deceased parent.
- The contrary intent is demonstrated by the terms of the instrument by clear and convincing evidence.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Cons. Stat. Tit. 755, § 5/2-4(a), (b)**

An adopted child is a descendant of the adopting parent for purposes of inheritance from the adopting parent and from the lineal and collateral kindred of the adopting parent and for the purpose of determining the property rights of any person under any instrument, unless the adopted child is adopted after age 18 and never resided with the adopting parent before age 18, in which case the adopted child is a child of the adopting parent but is not a descendant of the adopting parent for the purposes of inheriting from the lineal or collateral kindred of the adopting parent.

An adopting parent and the lineal and collateral kindred of the adopting parent shall inherit property from an adopted child to the exclusion of the natural parent and the lineal and collateral kindred of the natural parent in the same manner as though the adopted child were a natural child of the adopting parent.

Indiana**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Code § 29-1-2-8**

For all purposes of intestate succession, an adopted child shall cease to be treated as a child of the natural parents.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code § 29-1-2-8**

For all purposes of intestate succession, an adopted child shall be treated as a natural child of the child's adopting parents.

Iowa**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 633.223**

A lawful adoption extinguishes the right of intestate succession of an adopted person from and through the adopted person's birth parents and vice versa.

An adoption of a person by the spouse or surviving spouse of a birth parent has no effect on the relationship for inheritance purposes between the adopted person and that birth parent or birth parent's heirs. An adoption of a person by the spouse or surviving spouse of a birth parent after the death of the other birth parent has no effect on the relationship for inheritance purposes between the adopted person and the deceased birth parent's heirs.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 633.223**

The adopted person inherits from and through the adoptive parents and vice versa.

Kansas**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 59-2118**

Upon adoption, all the rights of birth parents to the adopted person, including their right to inherit from or through the person, shall cease.

An adoption shall not terminate the right of the child to inherit from or through the birth parent.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 59-2118**

When adopted, a person shall be entitled to the same personal and property rights as a birth child of the adoptive parent.

Kentucky**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Rev. Stat. § 199.520**

Upon granting an adoption, all legal relationships between the adopted child and the birth parents shall be terminated, except the relationship of a birth parent who is the spouse of an adoptive parent.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 199.520**

Upon entry of the adoption decree, the adopted person shall be deemed the child of the adoptive parents for purposes of inheritance.

Louisiana**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ch. Code Art. 1240; 1256(C)**

Upon adoption, the birth parent and relatives of the adopted person are relieved of all of their legal duties and divested of all of their legal rights with regard to the adopted person, including the right of inheritance from the adopted person.

The right of the child to inherit from his or her parents and other birth relatives is unaffected by the adoption.

If the adoptive parent is married to a birth parent of the adopted child, the relationship of that birth parent and his or her blood relatives to the adopted child shall remain unaltered and unaffected by the adoption.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person

This issue is not addressed in the statutes reviewed.

Maine**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 18-A, §§ 9-105; 2-109**

An adopted person retains the right to inherit from the adopted person's birth parents if the adoption decree so provides, as specified in § 2-109. If a natural parent wishes an adopted child to inherit from the natural parents and their respective kin, the adoption decree must provide for that status.

Adoption of a child by the spouse of a natural parent has no effect on the relationship between the child and either natural parent.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 18-A, § 9-105**

An adopted person has all the same rights, including inheritance rights, that a child born to the adoptive parents would have.

Maryland**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Fam. Law § 5-308; Est. & Trusts § 1-207**

After an order of adoption has been entered, each of the adopted person's living birth parents is relieved of all parental duties and obligations to the adopted person and divested of all parental rights as to the adopted person.

Upon adoption, a child no longer shall be considered a child of either natural parent, except that upon adoption by the spouse of a natural parent, the child shall still be considered the child of that natural parent.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Fam. Law § 5-308; Est. & Trusts § 1-207**

After an order for adoption has been entered, the adopted person is considered the child of the adoptive parent for all intents and purposes, and is entitled to all of the rights and privileges of and is subject to all of the obligations of offspring born to the adoptive parent.

An adopted child shall be treated as a natural child of his adopting parent or parents.

Massachusetts**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Laws Ch. 210, § 7**

Upon adoption, a person shall lose his right to inherit from his or her natural parents or family, except when one of the natural parents of a minor child has died and the surviving parent has remarried. The adoption of such child by the natural parent's spouse shall not affect the rights of the child to inherit from or through the deceased parent or kindred.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Laws Ch. 210, § 7**

An adopted person shall be entitled to the same share of the adopting parent's estate as he or she would have taken if born to such parent.

If the adopted person dies intestate, his or her property shall be distributed among the persons who would have been his or her kindred as if he or she had been born to the adopting parent.

Michigan**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Comp. Laws §§ 710.60; 700.2114**

After entry of the adoption decree, an adopted child is no longer an heir at law of the natural parent.

An adopted individual is the child of his or her adoptive parent or parents and not of his or her natural parents, but adoption of a child by the spouse of either natural parent has no effect on either the relationship between the child and that natural parent or the right of the child or a descendant of the child to inherit from or through the other natural parent.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Comp. Laws § 710.60**

After entry of the adoption decree, the adopted person becomes an heir at law the adopting parent.

Minnesota**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 259.59**

The child shall not owe the birth parents or their relatives any legal duty nor shall the child inherit from the birth parents or their family.

The birth parents shall have no rights over the child's property.

The adoption of a child by a stepparent shall not in any way change the status of the relationship between the child and the child's birth parent who is the spouse of the petitioning stepparent.

If a parent dies and a child is subsequently adopted by a stepparent who is the spouse of a surviving parent, any rights of inheritance of the child or the child's issue from or through the deceased parent of the child that exist at the time of the death of that parent shall not be affected by the adoption.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 259.59**

By virtue of the adoption, the adopted person shall inherit from the adoptive parents or their relatives as though the adopted person were the natural child of the parents.

In case of the adopted person's death intestate, the adoptive parents and their relatives shall inherit the adopted person's estate.

Mississippi**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Code § 93-17-13**

The natural parents and their relatives shall not inherit by or through the adopted child, except for a natural parent who is the spouse of the adopting parent.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code § 93-17-13**

The adopted child shall inherit from and through the adopting parents and their relatives by the laws of descent and distribution of the State of Mississippi, and likewise the adopting parents and relatives shall inherit from the adopted child.

Missouri**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Stat. §§ 453.090; 474.060**

When a child is adopted, all legal relationships and all rights and duties between such child and his or her natural parents shall cease.

If, for purposes of intestate succession, a relationship of parent and child must be established to determine succession by, through, or from a person, an adopted person is the child of an adopting parent and not of the natural parents, except that adoption of a child by the spouse of a natural parent has no effect on the relationship between the child and such natural parent.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 453.090**

When a child is adopted, he or she shall be capable of inheriting from his or her parent or parents by adoption as fully as though born to them. The parent or parents by adoption shall be capable of inheriting from their adopted child as fully as though such child had been born to them.

Montana**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Code § 72-2-124**

An adopted individual is the child of an adopting parent or parents and not of the natural parents. Adoption of a child by the spouse of either natural parent has no effect on:

- The relationship between the child and that natural parent
- The right of the child or a descendant of the child to inherit from or through the other natural parent

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code § 72-2-124**

For purposes of intestate succession, a parent-child relationship exists between an adopted person and an adopting parent.

Nebraska**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Rev. Stat. § 43-111**

After an adoption decree has been entered, the natural parents of the adopted child shall be relieved of all parental duties toward and all responsibilities for such child and have no rights over or to such adopted child's property by descent and distribution.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 30-2309**

For purposes of intestate succession, a parent-child relationship exists between an adopted person and an adopting parent.

Nevada**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Rev. Stat. § 127.160**

After an adoption decree is entered, the natural parents of an adopted child shall be relieved of all parental responsibilities for such child, and they shall not exercise or have any rights over an adopted child's property. The child shall not owe his or her natural parents or their relatives any legal duty, nor shall he or she inherit from his or her natural parents or family.

The adoption of a child by his or her stepparent shall not in any way change the status of the relationship between the child and his or her natural parent who is the spouse of the petitioning stepparent.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 127.160**

By virtue of an adoption, an adopted person shall inherit from his or her adoptive parents or their relatives as though he or she were the legitimate child of such parents.

If an adopted person dies intestate, the adoptive parents and their relatives shall inherit his or her estate.

New Hampshire**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Rev. Stat. § 170-B:25**

Upon the issuance of a final decree of adoption, all reciprocal rights of inheritance between the adopted person and the adopted person's birth parents and their respective collateral or lineal relatives shall contemporaneously cease.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 170-B:25**

Upon the issuance of a final decree of adoption, all reciprocal rights of inheritance between the adopted person and the adoptive parents and their respective collateral or lineal relatives shall contemporaneously begin.

New Jersey**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 9:3-50****The entry of a judgment of adoption shall:**

- Terminate all rights of inheritance under intestacy from or through the parent unless that parent is the spouse of the petitioner or that parent or other relative had died prior to the judgment of adoption
- Terminate all rights of inheritance under intestacy from or through the child that existed prior to the adoption

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 9:3-50**

The entry of a judgment of adoption shall establish the same relationships, rights, and responsibilities between the child and the adopting parent as if the child were born to the adopting parent. An adopted child shall have the same rights of inheritance as if born to the adopting parent.

New Mexico**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 45-2-114**

For purposes of intestate succession by, through, or from a person, an adopted individual is not the child of his natural parents.

Adoption of a child by the spouse of either natural parent has no effect on the relationship between the child and that natural parent or the right of the child or a descendant of the child to inherit from or through that natural parent.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 32A-5-37**

The adopted person and adopting parent shall have all rights and be subject to all of the duties of the parent-child relationship upon adoption, including the right of inheritance from and through each other.

New York**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Dom. Rel. Law § 117**

The rights of an adoptive child to inheritance and succession from and through his birth parents shall terminate upon the making of the adoption decree; the rights of the birth parents over such adoptive child or to his property by descent or succession will also cease.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Dom. Rel. Law § 117**

The adoptive parent and the adopted child shall sustain toward each other the legal relation of parent and child and shall have all the rights and be subject to all the duties of that relation, including the rights of inheritance from and through each other.

North Carolina**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Gen. Stat. § 48-1-106**

After the entry of a decree of adoption, the birth parents are relieved of all legal duties and obligations due from them to the adopted person and are divested of all rights with respect to the adopted person.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Gen. Stat. § 48-1-106**

From the date of the signing of the decree, the adopted person is entitled to inherit real and personal property by, through, and from the adoptive parents in accordance with the statutes on intestate succession.

North Dakota**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Cent. Code § 14-15-14**

A final decree of adoption terminates all legal relationships between the adopted individual and the individual's birth relatives, including the birth parents, so that the adopted individual thereafter is a stranger to his or her former relatives for all purposes, including inheritance.

If a parent of a child dies without the relationship of parent and child having been previously terminated and a spouse of the living parent thereafter adopts the child, the child's right of inheritance from or through the deceased parent is unaffected by the adoption.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Cent. Code § 14-15-14**

A final decree of adoption creates the relationship of parent and child between petitioner and the adopted individual, as if the adopted individual were a legitimate blood descendant of the petitioner, for all purposes including inheritance.

Northern Mariana Islands**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Commonwealth Code Tit. 8, § 1412**

Upon the final decree of adoption, the right of the adopted person to inherit from the natural parents ceases.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Commonwealth Code Tit. 8, § 1412**

The adopted person gains the right of inheritance from the adopting parent upon final decree to create the relationship of parent and child, as if the adopted person were the legitimate blood relative of the adopting parent.

Ohio**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Rev. Code § 3107.15**

The final adoption decree terminates all legal relationships between the adopted person and the adopted person's birth parents and relatives, for all purposes including inheritance.

If a parent of a child dies without the relationship of parent and child having been previously terminated and a spouse of the living parent thereafter adopts the child, the child's rights from or through the deceased parent for all purposes, including inheritance, are not restricted or curtailed by the adoption.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Rev. Code § 3107.15**

The adoption decree creates the relationship of parent and child between petitioner and the adopted person, as if the adopted person were a legitimate blood descendant of the petitioner, for all purposes including inheritance.

Oklahoma**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 10, § 7505-6.5**

After a final decree of adoption, the birth parents of the adopted child shall be relieved of all parental responsibilities for said child and shall have no rights over the adopted child or to the property of the child by descent and distribution.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 10, § 7505-6.5**

From the date of the final decree of adoption, the child shall be entitled to inherit real and personal property from and through the adoptive parents in accordance with the statutes of descent and distribution. The adoptive parents shall likewise be entitled to inherit real and personal property from and through the child.

Oregon**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Rev. Stat. § 112.175**

An adopted person shall cease to be treated as the child of the person's natural parents for all purposes of intestate succession, except:

- If a natural parent of a person marries or remarries and the person is adopted by the stepparent, the adopted person shall continue also to be treated, for all purposes of intestate succession, as the child of the natural parent who is the spouse of the adoptive parent.
- If a natural parent of a person dies, the other natural parent remarries and the person is adopted by the stepparent, the adopted person shall continue also to be treated, for all purposes of intestate succession by any person through the deceased natural parent, as the child of the deceased natural parent.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Rev. Stat. § 112.175**

An adopted person and the adoptive parents and their relatives shall take by intestate succession from each other as though the adopted person were the natural child of the adoptive parents.

Pennsylvania**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Cons. Stat. Tit. 20, § 2108**

An adopted person shall not be considered as continuing to be the child of his or her natural parents except in distributing the estate of a natural kin, other than the natural parent, who has maintained a family relationship with the adopted person.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Cons. Stat. Tit. 20, § 2108**

For purposes of inheritance by, from, and through an adopted person, he or she shall be considered the issue of his or her adopting parent or parents.

Puerto Rico**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Laws Tit. 31, § 538**

Adoption by final and binding decree shall extinguish any legal nexus between the adopted person and his or her former birth or adoptive family.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Laws Tit. 31, § 538**

Once the adoption has been decreed, the adopted person shall be deemed for all legal purposes as the child of the adopter, with all the rights, duties, and obligations corresponding to it, by law.

Rhode Island**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Gen. Laws § 15-7-17**

The birth parents of the adopted child shall be deprived of all legal rights respecting the child, and the child shall be freed from all obligations of maintenance and obedience respecting his or her natural parents; except it will not deprive an adopted child of the right to inherit from and through his or her natural parents in the same manner as other natural children.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Gen. Laws § 15-7-16**

A child lawfully adopted shall be deemed the child of the adoptive parents for the purpose of inheritance by the child and his or her descendants from the parents and by the adoptive parents and their lineal and collateral relatives from the child.

South Carolina**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Code §§ 20-7-1576; 20-7-1770**

An order terminating the relationship between parent and child divests the parent and the child of all legal rights, powers, privileges, immunities, duties, and obligations with respect to each other, except the right of the child to inherit from the parent. A right of inheritance is terminated only by a final order of adoption.

After a final decree of adoption is entered, the birth parents of the adopted person are relieved of all parental responsibilities and have no rights over the adopted person.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code §§ 20-7-1770; 62-2-109**

After the final decree of adoption is entered, the relationship of parent and child and all the rights, duties, and other legal consequences of the natural relationship of parent and child exist between the adopted person, the adoptive parent, and the kindred of the adoptive parent.

The adoption of a child by an adoptive parent does not in any way change the legal relationship between the child and either birth parent of the child whose parental responsibilities and rights are not expressly affected by the final decree.

South Dakota**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Laws § 29A-2-114**

For purposes of intestate succession, an adopted individual is no longer considered the child of that individual's birth parents, except that:

- Adoption of a child by the spouse of a birth parent has no effect on the relationship between the child and the birth parent whose spouse has adopted the child or the right of the child or a descendant of the child to inherit from or through the other birth parent.
- Adoption of a child by a birth grandparent or a descendant of a birth grandparent has no effect on the right of the child or a descendant of the child to inherit from or through either birth parent.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Laws § 29A-2-114**

For purposes of intestate succession, an adopted individual is the child of that individual's adopting parent or parents.

Tennessee**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Code § 36-1-121**

An adopted child shall not inherit real or personal property from his or her birth parents or their relatives when the relationship between them has been terminated by final order of adoption, nor shall the birth parents or their relatives inherit from the adopted child.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code § 36-1-121**

The adopted child and the child's descendants shall be capable of inheriting and otherwise receiving title to real and personal property from the adoptive parents and their descendants.

The adoptive parents and their family shall have a right of inheritance but only as to property of the adopted child acquired after the child's adoption.

Texas**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Prob. Code § 40; Fam. Code § 162.507**

The natural parents of an adopted child shall not inherit from or through said child, but said child shall inherit from and through its natural parents.

A person who was adopted as an adult may not inherit from or through the adult's birth parent, nor may the birth parent inherit from or through the adopted adult.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Prob. Code § 40**

An adopted child may, under the laws of descent and distribution, inherit from and through the adopting parents and their relatives, and the adopting parents and their family may inherit from and through such adopted child.

Utah**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Code § 75-2-114**

For purposes of intestate succession by, through, or from a person, an adopted individual is not the child of the birth parents, but adoption of a child by the spouse of either natural parent has no effect on:

- The relationship between the child and that natural parent
- The right of the child or a descendant of the child to inherit from or through the other natural parent

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code § 75-2-114**

For purposes of intestate succession by, through, or from a person, an adopted individual is the child of the adopting parents.

Vermont**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 15A, § 1-105**

All parental rights and duties of the birth parent of the adopted person terminate, including the right of inheritance and intestate succession from or through the adopted person, upon final decree of adoption.

The child's right to inherit from the birth parents also terminates.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Stat. Tit. 15A, § 1-104**

The adoptive parent and the adopted person have the legal relation of parent and child and have all the rights and duties of that relationship, including the right of inheritance from or through each other.

Virgin Islands**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Code Tit. 16, § 146**

The natural parents of an adopted child are deprived by a decree of adoption of all legal rights with respect to the child, and the child is freed from all obligations of maintenance and obedience with respect to his or her natural parents.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code Tit. 16, § 146**

An adopted child is deemed, for the purpose of inheritance, the child of the parents by adoption, except that he or she is prohibited from taking property expressly limited to heirs of the body of the adoptive parents.

Virginia**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Code § 64.1-5.1**

For the purpose of determining rights in or to property, an adopted person is not the child of the natural parents.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code § 64.1-5.1**

For the purpose of determining rights in or to property, an adopted person is the child of the adopting parents.

Washington**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Rev. Code § 11.04.085**

A lawfully adopted child shall not be considered an heir of his or her natural parents.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Rev. Code § 26.33.260**

An adopted person shall be, to all intents and purposes, and for all legal incidents, the child, legal heir, and lawful issue of the adoptive parent, entitled to all rights and privileges, including the right of inheritance.

West Virginia**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Code § 48-22-703**

Upon the entry of the final adoption decree, the birth parents shall be divested of all legal rights, including the right of inheritance from or through the adopted child.

Such child shall not inherit from any person entitled to parental rights prior to the adoption.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Code § 48-22-703**

From and after the entry of the order of adoption, a legally adopted child shall inherit from and through the parents by adoption.

If the adopted person dies intestate, all property, including real and personal, of such adopted person shall pass to the adopting parents.

Wisconsin**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 854.20**

A legally adopted person ceases to be treated as a child of the person's birth parents for the purposes of intestate succession, except:

- If a birth parent marries or remarries and the child is adopted by the stepparent, for all purposes the child is treated as the child of the birth parent whose spouse adopted the child.
- If a birth parent of a marital child dies and the other birth parent remarries and the child is adopted by the stepparent, the child is treated as the child of the deceased birth parent for purposes of inheritance.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 854.20**

A legally adopted person is treated as a birth child of the person's adoptive parents for purposes of intestate succession by, through, and from the adopted person.

Wyoming**Birth Parents in Relation to Adopted Person****Citation: Ann. Stat. § 2-4-107**

An adopted person is the child of an adopting parent and of both the natural parents for inheritance purposes only.

Adoptive Parents in Relation to Adopted Person**Citation: Ann. Stat. § 2-4-107**

An adopted person is the child of an adopting parent and of both the natural parents for inheritance purposes only.

An adopted person shall inherit from all other relatives of an adoptive parent as though he or she was the natural child of the adoptive parent, and the relatives shall inherit from the adoptive person's estate as if they were his or her relatives.
